

January 17, 1900

Glass (74)

The Glass Works

Located North of the City on the C. & E. I. Road.

Community Affairs File

Experiments in coal, Employment for men and women and demand for boys.

Contracts have been let and within two weeks ground will be broken for the erection of the Streeter Glass Bottle Factory. The works will be located on five acres of ground purchased from the Van Wyck estate which is just south of the piano case factory. This location is the best that could be found as it is between the Big Four, C. & E. I. and the Vandalia Logansport Division; thus switches can be built from each road.

The articles of incorporation were filed in the county court house under the name of the Terre Haute Glass Factory Company.

The company has a capital stock of \$4,000, divided into 400 shares of \$100 each. Its term of existence is for fifty years.

The directors and incorporators are William C. Deak, Frank McKeen, Henry H. McLane, Thomas H. New, and Harry W. Streeter.

The above crowns with success the hard work of the Commercial Club through its finance committee, of which, Spencer Ball is chairman. The Value of the plant may be fully realized from its contracts with the Commercial Club.

(More of this for about two more columns - Then this about ~~the~~ Club)

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

OWENS-ILLINOIS IN PRODUCTION

Reopened - 1942
Glass Plant Reopened Thursday
With Personnel Numbering 200
—Early Expansion Planned.

Jan 31 1942 GLASS (WV)

First production at the newly reopened plant of the Owens-Illinois Glass Company here came from the lines Thursday, it was announced by the management, the company resuming its first local operations in a number of years with one furnace and four forming machines and a personnel numbering about 200 persons.

The first bottles produced for consumers' use were made for the Quaker Maid plant in Terre Haute, the company announced. First from the machines was a small quantity of food containers, manufactured as souvenirs of the factory's reopen-

ing and commemorating the event. These containers, of "Duraglas," bore the statement that they were the first bottles run in the Terre Haute plant, No. 25, March 4, 1942, and the legend, "We did it before, and we can do it again."

"A sincere feeling of gratitude is tendered to the people of Terre Haute for their splendid cooperation in making it possible for us to meet our opening date," company officials said. In charge of the plant is Parker M. Bitner, who assumed charge as manager early this year. Extensive reconditioning work and construction of new furnaces was necessary before the plant resumed operations.

In announcing that the glass factory, located at Third and Voorhees streets, would resume manufacturing, the management stated that initial operations would be on a

partial basis with one furnace and four forming machines, giving immediate employment to approximately 200 men and women.

Work on an additional furnace and four added forming machines is progressing rapidly, and when this equipment goes into operation, the initial plant capacity will be doubled. Eventually from 400 to 450 people will be employed by the Owens-Illinois plant. The first bottles made locally will be for the Quaker Maid Company and Ben Burk, Inc.

Most of the factory personnel has been recruited from Terre Haute residents, and in cases where supervisors in technical positions were moved from other plants, preference was given to former residents of this city. Working under Mr. Bitner at the head of various departments are the following:

Hugh Coyne, factory superintendent; D. G. Simmons and Jack Rader, personnel; R. T. Casseday, purchasing; Earl Tremmel, accounting; W. B. Whitaker and B. L. Schulenberg, budget and time study; A. H. McKee, service; Carl Zirkle, furnaces; Walter Endicott, forming department; Reed Hunter, machine repair; Smith Ringer, mold repair; Harold Wandling, plant engineer; Hubert Wells, electrical department; Benny King, systems; Charles Everett, quality control; Warren Curley, packing supervisor; Lewis Hunt, history and specifications; Earl Butts, shipping, and Homer Evlinger, warehouse.

The reopening of the huge glass manufacturing plant marked the end of a period of about five years idleness. The plant was taken over by the Owens-Illinois Glass Company from the Root Glass Company in November, 1932, and after being operated for a time was closed down when the company decided to concentrate production at other plants. The decision to reopen the Terre Haute plant was announced by directors of the company on Sept. 30, 1941.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS CO.

OWENS-ILLINOIS ADDS TO FORCE

Int 5/11/42
**Second Furnace In Operation At
South Side Glass Plant—New
Equipment In Place.**
GLASS (W.V.)

About 100 additional employees have been engaged at the Owens-Illinois Glass Company plant at Third and Voorhees streets, following the placing in operation during the past week of the second glass-making furnace and two more forming machines. This brings the total personnel of the glass factory to approximately 325 persons employed since the plant was reopened for operations March 5.

It was announced by Parker M. Bitner, plant manager, that the ware being made by the second furnace and two forming machines are quart containers for the Schlitz Brewing Company and an export order for Cuba. Emerald green glass is being made by the second furnace and two machines, and the management expressed the hope that the two other machines of that furnace could be placed in operation shortly.

Opens In March.

The Owens-Illinois plant after a period of idleness, was reopened early in March after two months were spent in reconditioning the factory thoroughly and constructing new furnaces. Initial operation was on a partial basis, one furnace and four forming machines going into production, with a factory personnel of about 200 employees.

Construction of two additional furnaces was carried on after the first furnace began operations, and the second of these is now in operation. Six forming machines, in all, are being operated. The first bottles to come off the line when production was resumed in March were for Quaker Maid Foods and Ben Burk, Inc.

It was announced that at the outset about 200 would be employed and that eventually the factory personnel would number between 400 and 450 persons. Most of the factory personnel has been recruited from Terre Haute residents, and in the cases where supervisors were brought in from other Owens-Illinois plants to fill technical positions, preference was given to former Terre Hauteans.

Plan Special Awards.

In conjunction with the plan, special drives will be made to increase use of the company's suggestion system through which employees are compensated for adoptable ideas. Special awards will be made for suggestions which most effectively tie in with the war production effort, and employees responsible for such suggestions will receive personal recognition.

Owens-Illinois employees and management pointed out that a substantial part of the company's containers are used for foods and commodities which are essential to the success of the total effort of the nation in the war emergency. It also was pointed out that the company has taken an active part in the national war program by devoting a large part of the productive capacity of its machine shops to actual war production.

The experience of Owens-Illinois, which has been operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, should provide other industries with ideas which can be applied to advantage in the war effort, Mr. Bitner said. The production committee plan for American industry has been stressed by War Production Chief Nelson in a number of his recent speeches.

Personnel now engaged at the glass factory here numbers approximately 325 persons, an increase of 100 having occurred about a week ago when the company placed a second furnace and two additional forming machines in operation.

The local plant of the Owens-Illinois Glass Company has carried into effect a recommendation of War Production Chairman Donald Nelson that management and employees establish joint victory-committee systems to obtain maximum efficiency in factory operation, company officials announce.

Parker M. Bitner, plant manager for Owens-Illinois here, in announcing the adoption of the new system, said that the company and its people will continue the joint committee plan for the duration, its purpose being to iron out production problems and minimize waste of materials.

Each department of the plant will sponsor a committee, the representative selected by the employees in the department, who will act as a clearing house and work with the plant management in effecting ideas which are developed.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

OWENS - ILLINOIS

Busy Industry Is Housed Here In The Vast Owens-Illinois Plant

GLASS (W. V.)

7/12/10/44

Dewey Hall is one of the men of the package supply department of Owens-Illinois Glass Company's plant on Third and Voorhees streets in Terre Haute.

To the men and women at the plant he is just plain "Dewey," a fellow who comes to work every day, applies himself diligently to his job, participates in plant activities and like his associates, is proud to be known as an "Onlzer."

Recently Dewey had an idea which he thought would have the company a good bit of money. It was a paper saving idea which would save 211,000 square feet of paper in which bottles and jars are packed.

He wrote out his suggestion on a suggestion blank provided by the company for that purpose. In due course it came up for consideration by the suggestion committee and for his idea Dewey received an award of \$115.

The experience of Dewey Hall is typical of the co-operation between the people of Owens-Illinois and the company for which they work. It is an example of the industrial democracy which prevails in all of the 25 plants of this nation-wide industry, but it is only one of many interesting exemplifications of the fine people's program which has attracted national attention and considerable favorable publicity for the company.

The people at Owens-Illinois, there are 460 of them on the payroll at the Terre Haute plant, have a feeling they are definitely a part of the great organization with which they are associated.

Throughout their working day and the rest of the day when they are not at the plant they have a consciousness that the company is interested in their welfare.

At the plant they are provided with every conceivable safety device and they have their own safety councils in each department to help work out the safeguards to guard them against hazards incident to their occupations.

Safety Measures.

Evidence of this protection to the people is to be seen everywhere. Goggles are available where they are needed, as also are helmets, respirators and similar equipment. Safety engineers from the Aetna Life Insurance Company make monthly inspections of the plant to recommend corrections of hidden dangers and men and women of the plant are urged to make safety suggestions of their own and are paid well for those which are adopted.

In addition to its anxiety to make its plants safe places to work, Owens-Illinois also is interested in making them pleasant and comfortable. The people have at their service at all times a well equipped medical department under the supervision of Dr. C. L. Luckett and Mary Lewis, registered nurse.

The people are urged to come to the first aid room for treatment of even the most minor injury and immediate hospitalization is available for those more seriously hurt. In addition an attempt is made to give each person one complete physical examination a year.

Records show 1,638 people have

availed themselves of the services of the medical department since the first of the year. A valuable adjunct to this service is the company's group insurance plan, which not only insures the lives of all of the men and women who wish to enroll, but also provides accident and health insurance for themselves and their families. In the group insurance plan the company pays half of the total premium.

For people in the armed forces who wish to continue their protection to members of their families, the company now pays all of the premium. Actually there is very little sickness and very few accidents at the plant.

The place is kept immaculately clean. Airy and well equipped locker and rest rooms are provided for both men and women, with good sanitary facilities, shower baths and other comforts and conveniences. Various departments at the plant carry on a year round competition with one another in a good house-keeping program which increases, if possible, their consciousness of cleanliness.

Sanitary Food Service.

Another contributing factor to the health and happiness of the Terre Haute Onlzers is the food service which is maintained at the plant on a 24 hours a day basis under the direction of Laura Falls and a staff of eight competent people.

The best of food tastefully prepared is served to the plant people at 1940 prices. The service is maintained on a non-profit basis and is so economical and satisfactory that many of the men and women at the plant eat three meals a day there. In two months of this year, Mrs. Falls served a total of 78,000 meals to people in the plant.

The reason for the round the clock operation at the food service is the fact that the making of glass containers is necessarily a continuous operation and the 460 people of the Terre Haute plants are divided into three shifts. Operating on that basis the plant here produces an annual output of 220,000,000 glass containers for the customers which it supplies.

Important contributions toward the happiness of people who work for a living are a feeling of security, assurance that their old age is taken care of, that extra money can be had in times of emergency and that sickness and accidents will not cause undue distress.

Insurance Plan.

The insurance plan of the company does much to alleviate distress in cases of sickness and accident, but the company has equally adequate plans to make available money for other emergencies and to guarantee old age security.

The Federal Credit Union maintained by the people themselves in the Terre Haute and other plants of the company, provides the men and women with ready money for emergencies at very low rates of interest. The credit union is operated by a committee of employees chosen by the people themselves. The people have the privilege of depositing savings with the credit

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Owens-Illinois Glass Co. 3RD AND VOORHEES

union and profits shown by the credit union's operations go back to the depositors in the form of dividends.

The credit union office operated by Margaret Thompson, treasurer, is proud of its growth in the two years it has been in existence. A total of 334 of the people of the plant are members and have deposit savings totaling \$10,098. At the end of May there were 73 active loans. The credit union also is proud of the fact that it has sold \$50,345 in war bonds to the people of the Terre Haute plant during its two years of existence.

The old age retirement income plan of the company covers all of its plants. For those employees receiving \$3,000 a year or less the company bears all of the cost of the plan. For those receiving in excess of \$3,000 the cost of the plan is borne jointly by the employees and the company.

The plan aims to give each man and woman a substantial income

for life after retirement in addition to his social security benefits.

No discussion of activities at the Terre Haute Owens-Illinois plant would be complete without a pretty thorough review of the Onlzers Club and its activities. The club is open to all of the people of the plant on an optional basis. It is run by officers of their own choosing and maintains quarters of its own in the downtown Y.M.C.A. building.

Recreation Work.

The club sponsors athletic, social and welfare activities, all of which have the effect of getting the people better acquainted with one another and provides them with interesting after working hour recreation and amusement.

In the first five months of 1944 there were 132 club-sponsored athletic activities in which 2,429 Terre Haute Onlzers participated, 92 social activities with 1981 participants and 30 welfare activities with 3,547 participants.

Under athletics comes such sports as bowling, baseball, golf, horse-shoe pitching, basketball, tennis and swimming. All of the men at the plant who belong to the club have the use of all Y.M.C.A. facilities and the women have limited membership privileges.

Social activities include dances, dinners and parties and welfare activities include such enterprises as those sponsored by the Red Cross and the Community Chest to which Onlzers contribute time as well as funds.

The company and the club also participate in a communal Victory Garden arrangement on a half city block two squares from the plant. The company maintains regular training courses for its men and women to enable them to progress within the organization and a plant magazine, edited by Rex Smith of the personnel division, helps keep the people acquainted with activities past and future, with personal achievements of their fellows and with activities in the plants of the company in other cities.

The plant of the company here has 56 men and women in the armed

forces. The people at the plant keep in constant contact with all of these people in service by writing them letters on a systematically organized basis, sending them cigarettes every three months, Christmas gifts, a subscription to a sports newspaper and the plant magazine.

Group Insurance.

The plant also maintains contact with the families of the Onlzers in service and pays for group insurance to provide sickness and accident benefits to the dependents of the service people. Wives of servicemen who wish employment in the plant are given preference in hiring and each service person's seniority rights are continued during his or her absence.

The serviceman or woman who gets home on an occasional visit and has an opportunity to call at the plant gets more than an enthusiastic welcome. Where time permits a special luncheon is arranged in their honor.

All of these many co-operating activities carried on among the people who make up the Terre Haute personnel of Owens-Illinois, add up to a lot of things. Onlzers are happy at their work and their contentment and enthusiasm is reflected in the quality of their product. In inter-plant competition on efficiencies Terre Haute has been at the top consistently.

WAR EFFORT OF OWENS-ILLINOIS

4/23/42
Firm Must Produce Over One-
Third of Glass Containers Need-
ed—Local Plant Active.

Glass (W.V.)

Employees of the Owens-Illinois Glass Company, in the Terre Haute plant as well as the others operated by the company, Thursday received a pamphlet calling their attention to the vital part being played by their industry in the war effort.

The reopening of the Terre Haute plant has coincided with the throwing into high gear of the glass making industry in common with all other industrial enterprises to supply the "18 men required on the home front for each man on the battle front."

Entitled "Owens-Illinois and the War Effort," the publication recently distributed to employees tells graphically of the contribution of the glass company to the vital effort of supply, without which an army cannot function. It is pointed out that the company's central machine and mold shops and similar shops in other plants, originally designed to make molds and equipment and keep them in repair, are now turning out substantial quantities of precision tools and other machinery required by the armament program. These are classified as primary war products.

Many Men Needed.

It is then pointed out that the efforts of most employees of Owens-Illinois, however, are spent in the making of glass containers, giving them cause to wonder perhaps over the extent to which their work is helping to win the war. During the first World War only five men were required at home in industrial effort to maintain one man at the front. Vast strides in the science of war now make the services of 18 men necessary to maintain one fighting soldier or sailor.

"In order to fulfill the tremendous demands now placed upon the nation's productive facilities for primary war products, men manning machines must be well fed, clothed, kept in good health and in good spirits," the pamphlet states. "Without their steady and efficient effort to make tanks, planes and guns, our entire program would collapse and many more of the men in our fighting forces would suffer death, and worse, from the hands of our enemies."

"Here is where Owens-Illinois enters the war picture. Upon us rests the responsibility of producing over one-third of the glass containers which are needed for packing the products which will keep the men behind the machines at their daily tasks. Consider what would happen if over one-third of these men and their families were deprived tomorrow of the food, dairy products, medicines and other essentials to health and comfort which they now find readily available in glass containers."

It is of interest to note that the first containers made at the local plant upon its reopening were for the packaging of food, and the bulk of containers made here will serve that vital purpose. With more than 1000 people employed at present, the Owens-Illinois plant is still only on partial production, and two additional furnaces are being rapidly pushed to completion to allow expansion of the plant's facilities.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

OWENS-
ILLINOIS

Early Glass Factories Here

GLASS (WV)

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

AUG 19 1956

It is always a pleasure for me to talk to W. G. Bell, 1729 North Eighth street, and this time was no exception. I asked him to tell me his recollections of the glass industry here.

Very few present-day residents of Terre Haute know that there was a glass factory here as early as 1870. This early industry was located near Thirteenth and Crawford streets. Mr. Bell had talked to two men who were employed at this factory. One man was a "mixer" of the sand, soda, ash, lime and the coloring material. The other man was a "carrying-in-boy" whose job it was to carry in the fruit jars for the annealing process.

The next glass factory to locate in Terre Haute was at Twenty-fifth and Locust street. They made flint glass (tableware) and bottles the short time they were in operation. Later it was taken over and reorganized by the Turner Brothers.

Under this new management it became a "twelve ring tank" or "twelve shop tank" type of operation. The shops were operated double-shift, giving employment to 72 men. There were three men to a shop, and as many boys as men, all working in the furnace division alone. Many others, of course, worked there too—in the office, shipping dept., etc. At first the company made its own wooden boxes for shipping, and later made corrugated paper boxes for this purpose.

Produced Fruit Jars.

The next factory was located in the fork of the Big Four and C. & E. I. railroads, just south of Maple avenue. It manufactured a very fine grade of fruit jars—all hand work, in those days before machinery. Chapman Root bought this industry and later resold it to the Ball Brothers, who dismantled it, even taking the lumber from the warehouse, and moved it to Muncie, Ind. A short time later the factory buildings which remained burned to the ground.

The North Baltimore Glass Company started out here with one furnace, added a second, and finally a third. Mr. Root was employed in the office there.

About this time soft drinks were becoming very popular and bottles for them were much in demand. Mr. Root built his own glass factory on South Third street, starting with one furnace, and making beer bottles and soft drink bottles. Alex Samuelson, the general superintendent of the factory, helped to design the "coke" bottle which is so familiar to all of us.

New Capital.

The elderly Turner brother passed away and the business came into the hands of the family. New capital was brought in which gradually took over the controlling interest. In a short time the factory was moved from Terre Haute to the East coast.

In 1914 when all four factories were working here, over 500 journeyman workers were employed, and many apprentices who served our year apprenticeships at that time. Mr. Bell was chairman of the election board that year, when the election of officers was held for the National organization. Mr. Bell was a skilled workman, coming here from Evansville where he was Financial Secretary of the Bottle Blowers Union. He has worked 30 years altogether in the trade.

I was interested in his descriptions of the making of window glass. In the early times it was blown in a big long cylinder, then held in a very hot furnace while the cylinder was cut open and flattened. Now it's all made by machinery and comes from the annealing ovens in long flat ribbons to be cut off as desired. Such a factory is presently located in Vincennes. About sixty years ago there were small glass factories dotted all over the Indiana map. Now there are none.

Oldest of the Trade.

W. G. Bell was born in Randolph county, North Carolina, and went to Fairmont, Ind. in 1879 at the age of eight years. He started to

work in a glass factory when he was twenty. As far as he knows, he is the next oldest man still living who followed this trade in Terre Haute. The oldest glass blower is Mr. Max Fickert, 2322 Locust street, who is 88 years old.

Mr. Bell comes of Quaker stock, tracing his mother's Stuart line back in 1766. An interesting story was told of his Quaker grandfather Jehu Stuart, of Randolph county, N. C. At the start of the Civil War, pressure was brought to bear on him by his southern neighbors to bear arms. But his oldest son had migrated to Knightstown, Ind., was an ardent Northern Sympathizer and sent his father the northern newspapers. Old Jehu Stuart was won over to the Northern beliefs and tried to talk his neighbors into reading the papers also. When he was warned of a plot to kill him for being a "traitor," he fled to Knightstown, staying there until the war was over and leaving his wife and daughter (Mr. Bell's mother) alone on a 110 acre farm and the nearest unfriendly neighbor a half mile away! Mr. Bell's father fought in the Civil War three years for the North, participating in the Battle of the Wilderness, and many others.

Mr. Bell's favorite hobby is whittling. With the help of friends and family, he collects all sorts of interesting and historic wood. From this he carves some of the most beautifully grained letter openers I have ever seen. A wall plaque designed in a sunburst arrangement of these letter openers is displayed at Gerstmeier, another at Garfield.

When the old Hulman School was torn down on South Seventh street, he acquired some of the shelving made of wild cherry wood. From the mulberry tree which was cut down to make way for the bleachers at Gerstmeier, he was able to "whittle" many items. Also the wood from the Horse Chestnut tree at Tech made up beautifully. Mr. Bell was employed at Gerstmeier for twenty years.

The most interesting wood in my opinion came from the walnut fence which once enclosed what is now Collett Park; but at that time was a woods-pasture leased by Mr. Collett to Daniel Conover (grandfather of James Conover, Principal of Garfield High School). When the fence was removed, Mr. Merry who had worked for Mr. Conover for some twenty years, took a few of the rails to build a grape arbor. After his death, his son, Geo. Merry dismantled the arbor and knowing Mr. Bell's interest in collecting historic wood, gave him one of the rails. On my desk in front of me as I write this is one of the letter openers made from this rail, a gift from Mr. Bell.

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Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Owens - Illinois Glass

containers for the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries,

Star 3-15-60
**New Owner to Reactivate Plant Here
Of Owens-Illinois; Bitner Named Chief**

Glass (W. V.)
Purchase of the Owens-Illinois Glass Company plant, located between Third and Sixth streets north of Voorhees Street, by the Wheaton Glass Company of Millville, N. J. was announced yesterday by Frank H. Wheaton Jr., company president.

5-3-15-60

Plans are under way to revamp the plant in the near future with the hopes of beginning production of both plastic and glass containers for the pharmaceutical

and cosmetics industry within six to eight months, he added.

+ + +

HE ALSO announced that Parker Bitner will return to the city to be manager of the plant, reporting for work April 1. Bitner was manager of the plant for Owens-Illinois from January, 1941, to January, 1947. He left here shortly before the plant was closed to go into the Owens-Illinois offices at Toledo.

For the past few years Bitner has been manager of the Knox

Glass Company plant at Knox, Pa. He was located in Wheeling, W. Va., for a short time before joining Knox.

Wheaton Glass Company has in its Millville operation the largest single glass container plant in the United States. It is the largest family-owned glass container factory in the United States.

+ + +

STARTED by the present president's grandfather, Dr. Theodore C. Wheaton, in 1888, it has been continued by his son, Frank H. Wheaton, who is somewhat of a dean in the glass industry, and now his grandson. The elder Frank H. Wheaton is in his

See GLASS PLANT
On Page 3, Column 2

City Directory Lists:

1932 Root Glass Co. 3d + Voorhees

1934 OWENS-ILLINOIS Glass Co. 3rd + Voorhees

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

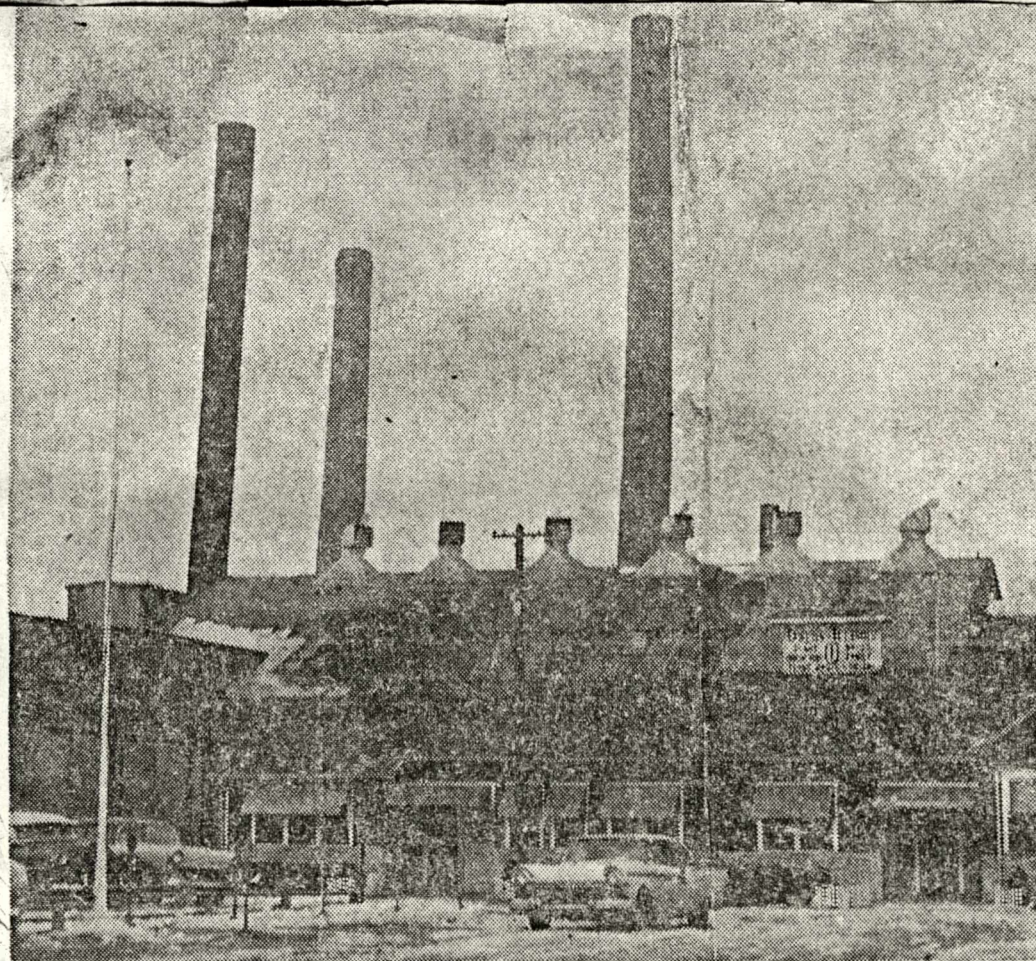
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Community Affairs File

T. H. Industries - N. J.

2-16-61 Owens - Illinois Glass

Emeline Fairbanks Mem. Library



TO BE REACTIVATED—The Wheaton Glass Company of Millville, N. J., has purchased the former Owens-Illinois Glass Company plant located between Third and Sixth streets north of Voorhees Street and hopes to have it in operation within six to eight months, producing glass and plastic containers for the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries.

sixty-first consecutive year in the glass container business, and he is one of the first to be in the office each morning, according to his son.

No details of the plans for the local plant were released by Mr. Wheaton yesterday. It will service primarily companies located in Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and St. Louis, he said. The company supplies containers for Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc., he said, but these are for its Brooklyn plant, where the packaging of pharmaceuticals is handled. Procter & Gamble also is a client of the company.

+ + +

THE COMPANY has a plant in Sao Paulo, Brazil, which employs some 750 persons and has associate plants throughout the world in 12 other countries. Affiliated plants include the Wheaton Plastics Company and Wheaton Engineering Corporation at Mays Landing, N. J.; Stowman Shipyards, Inc., and Dorchester Engineering Company, Dorchester, N. J.; Skillman Hardware Manufacturing Company, Trenton, N. J., and Cristalerias Rigolleau, S. A., Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The sale of the local property, which is located on the New York Central Railroad Company's line, was negotiated by the B.

Company, represented by Paul Foster.

+ + +

THE INDUSTRY committee of the Chamber of Commerce under the leadership of Joe Solomon was instrumental in interesting Wheaton Glass Company in locating in Terre Haute.

The plant, originally the Root Glass Company, is one of the city's older plants. It was purchased during the 1930s by Owens-Illinois and operated by it until 1948 as a glass plant. From 1948 until recently it has been used as a Owens-Illinois warehouse.

GLASS (W.V.)

TUE NOV 30 1980

Turner

Growth of industry in early Terre Haute reviewed

The first glass factory of Terre Haute was located here as early as 1870 near Thirteenth and Crawford streets. Sand, soda, ash, lime and the coloring material were mixed in exact proportions and heated until molten glass was formed. Fruit jars for canning were manufactured here.

The next glass factory to locate in Terre Haute was at Twenty-fifth and Locust streets. They made flint glass (tableware) and bottles the short time they were in operation. Later it was taken over and reorganized by the Turner Brothers.

Under this new management, it became a "12-ring tank" or "12-shop tank" type of operation. The shops were operated double-shift, giving employment to 72 men. There were three men to a shop, and as many boys as men, all working in the furnace division alone. Many others, of course, worked there too—in the office, shipping department, etc. At first the company made its own wooden boxes for shipping, and later made corrugated paper boxes for the purpose.

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drink bottles. Alex Samuelson, general superintendent of the factory, is credited with designing the "coke" bottle so familiar to everyone.

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Several years ago there were small glass factories dotted all over the Indiana map. Now there are very few. Vincennes had a window glass factory. Terre Haute still has Midland Glass Company on South Third Street.

The rapid growth of the glass manufacturing industry was attributed largely to natural gas. Up to the time of its discovery in Indiana, there were only two plants in the state. The glass industry ranked 17th in Indiana in 1890, but during the next ten years the number of plants jumped from 21 to 116. Over 13,000 persons were employed in glass-making.

The first plate glass manufactured at a profit in the United States was established at New Albany, Ind., about 1870, followed by another plant in Jeffersonville several years later. The first glass factory in Muncie was started in 1889, and then six more located there. Marion, Anderson, Alexandria and Kokomo were among other major glass producers.

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark



In the natural gas belt, the plants produced a large variety of goods, including plate and other window glass, cathedral glass, lamp chimneys, lantern globes, fruit jars and tableware. Large shipments were made to Norway and New Zealand.

Indiana's natural gas continued to be discovered and used in the 20th century, but its heyday was over by about 1900. Most of the gas used thereafter came as a by-product of coke-making or from other states by means of pipe lines.

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Turner Bros. Glass

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